
Provost Marshal General Back in the Saddle Again

By Colonel Scott Taylor

On 29 October 2003, Major General Donald J. Ryder was sworn in as the Army's Provost Marshal General by Lieutenant General James J. Lovelace, Director of the Army Staff, who hosted the Pentagon ceremony on behalf of the Army Chief of Staff.

The ceremony was based on Headquarters, Department of the Army General Orders No. 9, which states in part, "Effective 26 September 2003, the U.S. Army Office of the Provost Marshal General (PMG) is established as an Army staff element within the Headquarters, Department of the Army."

This was a reestablishment ceremony, however, not an establishment ceremony. The Provost Marshal General existed as a permanent position from 1941 to 1974, with ten individuals serving during the period. The last Provost Marshal General, Major General Lloyd Ramsey (Retired), served from 1970 to 1974.

Nearly 30 years after retiring the Provost Marshal General colors, Major General Ramsey, who is the only surviving former Provost Marshal General, participated in the ceremony by joining Major General Ryder in posting the same colors he cased in 1974. The positional flag, as it is called, was temporarily removed from its home in the Military Police Corps Museum to be part of the ceremony. An Old Guard Military Police Corps member, Specialist Brian Barry, carried the flag and passed it to newly appointed Provost Sergeant Major of the Army, Sergeant Major Brian Deorocki.

In his remarks, Lieutenant General Lovelace commented on the great demand for military police, who "are the most rotated, deployed, and used units in the Army." He further mentioned that the impression one gets of an installation or command is often based on the military police, who are the first and last soldiers seen when entering and leaving post. Expressing confidence in Major General Ryder, he said, "Don is one of our superstars in the Army and enjoys the complete trust of the Army's senior leadership. He is the right guy to lead this step in the Army's transformation."

Speaking next, Major General Ramsey, who is 85, made a light-hearted jab at the other two "junior general officers" in the official party, commenting that



Lieutenant General Lovelace, left, Director of the Army Staff, swears in Major General Ryder as the new Provost Marshal General in a ceremony held at the Pentagon, 29 October 2003.

when he held the position, Lieutenant General Lovelace was just being commissioned and Major General Ryder was still a year away. He went on to talk about issues he focused on as the Provost Marshal General to improve military police morale: the design and acquisition of a military police badge, the acquisition of better vehicles, and the addition of "small-crimes" military police investigators. Major General Ramsey concluded by stating that the Army made a good decision by bringing all law enforcement agencies back under one command.

Major General Ryder began his speech by saying, "I've been called a lot of things but never the Provost Marshal General, and it sounds good." He went on to thank Lieutenant General Lovelace and recognize both Major General Ramsey and Sergeant Major Deorocki. Then, during a poignant moment, he highlighted the presence of Lieutenant Colonel Chase Maglin (Retired), son of a former Provost Marshal General, the late Major General William Maglin (Retired). Major General Maglin—the first Provost Marshal General from the Military Police Corps—served from 1953 to 1957. Lieutenant Colonel Maglin honored Major General Ryder by presenting his father's two-star rank and military police branch insignia for permanent display in the Pentagon's new Provost Marshal General office.



Sergeant Major Deorocki, newly appointed Provost Sergeant Major, passes the Provost Marshal General positional flag to Major General Ramsey, left, and Major General Ryder.

Major General Ryder referred to Major General Maglin, Major General Ramsey, and the eight other Provost Marshals General as “American heroes,” a fitting characterization during a ceremony held in the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes.

After explaining the Provost Marshal General’s intermittent history from 1776 until World War II, Major General Ryder went on to emphasize and promise that the Office of the Provost Marshal General will never forget its primary mission—to support the military police in the field.

The ceremony culminated many months of hard work by several members from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC) and the Army G3’s former Security, Force Protection, and Law Enforcement Division (DAMO-ODL).

Based on recommendations from the Army’s Realignment Task Force, the Secretary of the Army—in October 2002—directed Major General Ryder as the USACIDC commander to develop a concept plan to reestablish the Office of the Provost Marshal General and transform USACIDC from a major Army command to a direct reporting unit. The concept plan was subsequently approved in August 2003 and implemented with considerable speed to begin

operations on 26 September 2003, the 62d Anniversary of the Military Police Corps.

With an office in the Pentagon (a first for the position), the Provost Marshal General now serves as the Army Staff’s single source for law enforcement, providing executive oversight for planning, resourcing, policy making, and execution of full-spectrum law enforcement and security support to the Army. Functional areas include criminal investigations, police intelligence, physical security, corrections and internment, and antiterrorism. Efficiencies and enhanced effectiveness were achieved by merging select assets and functions of the USACIDC headquarters and DAMO-ODL under the umbrella of the Provost Marshal General.

The Provost Marshal General is dual-hatted as the USACIDC commander, reporting to the Army Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. USACIDC does not transform to a direct reporting agency unit until 1 October 2004, but even then will continue to maintain its paramount feature of investigative independence, free of undue influence or its perception. The transition of the USACIDC will complete the law enforcement portion of the Army’s transformation.

So it was in this historic event amidst heroes current and past that the old proudly relinquished to the new. The passion and focus of the Regiment, its rich history and legacy, and its values-based leadership were never more apparent. A new rider, pun intended, now sits astride the Marechaussee saddle. And while the ceremony honored an individual leader, it also celebrated in full the relevance and importance of the Regiment to the Army and even more so its confidence in the men and women who comprise it.

The following responsibilities of the Provost Marshal General are itemized in General Orders No. 9:

- Provide leadership and direction to the Military Police Corps.
- Serve as the functional proponent for law enforcement and criminal investigation activities. The U.S. Army Military Police School, however, will remain the branch and personnel proponent for the Military Police Corps Regiment and will retain proponentcy for military police doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel, and facilities.
- Plan and organize law enforcement support to the Army.
- Develop and oversee the implementation of law enforcement policy.